

REMARKS

The Applicant respectfully requests further examination and reconsideration in view of the amendments above and the arguments set forth fully below. Claims 1-37 were previously pending in this application. Within the Office Action, claims 1-37 have been rejected. Accordingly, claims 1-37 are currently pending.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103

Within the Office Action, Claims 1-37 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,253,188 to Witek et al. (hereinafter “Witek”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,604,772 to Botto et al. (hereinafter “Botto”). The applicants respectfully disagree.

Witek teaches a system and method for providing classified ads over the Internet. Internet users can connect to a newspaper web server and central web application server to search for and obtain classified ads. Ad records are stored in ad database servers 20 for providing classified ad records on request to application servers 16. To search the ad records, the search process is divided into two principle parts. The first part includes a system entry and pre-selection sequence, and the second part includes a record selection sequence. [Witek, col. 12, lines 10-13] More specifically, in the first part the user enters the system and specifies the category of classified ads to be searched. Thereafter, as the user navigates to the respective selected category, the user further specifies a subcategory for the particular category selected. [Witek, col. 12, lines 27-37] The selected category and subcategory pair is identified by a category/subcategory ID 46. The specific parameters are entered as primary selection parameters 60 and as secondary selection parameters 62. The first part of the search process is limited to performing searches based on category, or in other words a hierarchical search. [Witek, col. 13, lines 30-46] The second part of the search process is limited to performing searches based on entered parameters, in other words keyword search or parametric search. As previously agreed, Witek does not teach a dichotomous key search. Witek does not teach performing a search in which for any given searching step, at any location within the database, four different search methodologies are available to be used to perform the search. Specifically, Witek does not teach that any of a keyword search, hierarchical search, dichotomous key search and parametric search can be used at any location within the database.

Botto teaches a transmission system and modem utilizing coded modulation. Botto appears to be cited because of its teaching of a zone searching module which determines a searched zone by dichotomy. There is no motivation to warrant the combination of Witek and Botto. There is no hint, teaching or suggestion in either of Witek or Botto to warrant their combination.

Even if considered proper, the combination of Witek and Botto does not teach performing a search in which for any given searching step, at any location within the database, four different search methodologies are available to be used to perform the search. Neither, Witek, Botto nor their combination teach that each utilization of the search module includes the availability of the keyword search, the hierarchical search, the dichotomous key search and the parametric search.

The independent claim 1 is directed to a method of formatting information within a directory tree structure. The method of claim 1 comprises the steps of performing a search by utilizing a search module, the search module includes a keyword search, a hierarchical search, a dichotomous key search, and a parametric search, wherein *each utilization of the search module includes the availability of each search*, to correlate a search criteria to a searchable database for generating one or more matching items, wherein the searchable database is formatted in the directory tree structure, wherein the directory tree structure includes nodes comprising a collection of related data and branches comprising links between the nodes, and further wherein each matching item represents a node from within the directory tree structure, selecting one of the matching items, formatting the collection of related data corresponding to the node of the selected matching item into an encyclopedia-like entry, and displaying the encyclopedia-like entry corresponding to the node of the selected matching item. As described above, the combination of Witek and Botto is not proper. As further discussed above, even if considered proper, neither Witek, Botto nor their combination teach that each utilization of the search module includes the availability of each search. For at least these reasons, the independent Claim 1 is allowable over the teachings of Witek, Botto and their combination.

Claims 2-10 depend on the independent Claim 1. As described above, the independent Claim 1 is allowable over the teachings of Witek, Botto and their combination. Accordingly, Claims 2-10 are all also allowable as being dependent on an allowable base claim.

The independent claim 11 is directed to an organization system for formatting information within a directory tree structure. The organization system of claim 11 is configured to perform a search by utilizing a search module, the search module includes a keyword search, a hierarchical search, a dichotomous key search, and a parametric search, wherein *each utilization*

of the search module includes the availability of each search, to correlate a search criteria to a searchable database for generating one or more matching items, wherein the searchable database is formatted in the directory tree structure, wherein the directory tree structure includes nodes comprising a collection of related data and branches comprising links between the nodes, wherein each matching item represents a node from within the directory tree structure, to select one of the matching items, to format the collection of related data corresponding to the node of the selected matching item into an encyclopedia-like entry, and to display the encyclopedia-like entry corresponding to the node of the selected matching item. As described above, the combination of Witek and Botto is not proper. As further discussed above, even if considered proper, neither Witek, Botto nor their combination teach that each utilization of the search module includes the availability of each search. For at least these reasons, the independent Claim 11 is allowable over the teachings of Witek, Botto and their combination.

Claims 12-19 depend on the independent Claim 11. As described above, the independent Claim 11 is allowable over the teachings of Witek, Botto and their combination. Accordingly, Claims 12-19 are all also allowable as being dependent on an allowable base claim.

The independent claim 20 is directed to an organization system for formatting information within a directory tree structure. The organization system of Claim 20 comprises means for performing a search by utilizing a search module, the search module includes a keyword search, a hierarchical search, a dichotomous key search, and a parametric search , wherein *each utilization of the search module includes the availability of each search*, to correlate a search criteria to a searchable database for generating one or more matching items, wherein the searchable database is formatted in the directory tree structure, wherein the directory tree structure includes nodes comprising a collection of related data and branches comprising links between the nodes, and further wherein each matching item represents a node from within the directory tree structure, means for selecting one of the matching items, means for formatting the collection of related data corresponding to the node of the selected matching item into an encyclopedia-like entry, and means for displaying the encyclopedia-like entry corresponding to the node of the selected matching item. As described above, the combination of Witek and Botto is not proper. As further discussed above, even if considered proper, neither Witek, Botto nor their combination teach that each utilization of the search module includes the availability of each search. For at least these reasons, the independent Claim 20 is allowable over the teachings of Witek, Botto and their combination.

Claims 21-29 depend on the independent Claim 20. As described above, the independent Claim 20 is allowable over the teachings of Witek, Botto and their combination. Accordingly, Claims 21-29 are all also allowable as being dependent on an allowable base claim.

The independent claim 30 is directed to an organization system for formatting information within a directory tree structure. The organization system of Claim 30 comprises one or more computer systems configured to communicate with other systems, and an organization server configured to couple to the one or more computer systems to perform a search by utilizing a search module, the search module includes a keyword search, a hierarchical search, a dichotomous key search, and a parametric search, wherein *each utilization of the search module includes the availability of each search*, to correlate a search criteria to a searchable database for generating one or more matching items, wherein the searchable database is formatted in the directory tree structure, wherein the directory tree structure includes nodes comprising a collection of related data and branches comprising links between the nodes, and further wherein each matching item represents a node from within the directory tree structure, to select one of the matching items, to format the collection of related data corresponding to the node of the selected matching item into an encyclopedia-like entry, and to display the encyclopedia-like entry corresponding to the node of the selected matching item. As described above, the combination of Witek and Botto is not proper. As further discussed above, even if considered proper, neither Witek, Botto nor their combination teach that each utilization of the search module includes the availability of each search. For at least these reasons, the independent Claim 30 is allowable over the teachings of Witek, Botto and their combination.

Claims 31-36 depend on the independent Claim 30. As described above, the independent Claim 30 is allowable over the teachings of Witek, Botto and their combination. Accordingly, Claims 31-36 are all also allowable as being dependent on an allowable base claim.

The independent claim 37 is directed to a method of formatting information within a directory tree structure. The method of Claim 37 comprises the steps of performing a search by utilizing a search module, the search module includes a keyword search, a hierarchical search, a dichotomous key search, and a parametric search, wherein *each utilization of the search module includes the availability of each search*, to correlate a search criteria to a searchable database for generating one or more matching items, wherein the searchable database is formatted in the directory tree structure, wherein the directory tree structure includes nodes comprising a collection of related data and branches comprising links between the nodes, and further wherein each matching item represents a node from within the directory tree structure, selecting one of

the matching items, formatting the collection of related data corresponding to the node of the selected matching item into an encyclopedia-like entry, wherein the encyclopedia-like entry includes text, graphics, links to related topics within the directory tree structure, links to related web sites external to the directory tree structure, or any combination thereof, and displaying the encyclopedia-like entry corresponding to the node of the selected matching item. As described above, the combination of Witek and Botto is not proper. As further discussed above, even if considered proper, neither Witek, Botto nor their combination teach that each utilization of the search module includes the availability of each search. For at least these reasons, the independent Claim 37 is allowable over the teachings of Witek, Botto and their combination.

For the reasons given above, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-37 are now in a condition for allowance, and allowance at an early date would be appreciated. Should the Examiner have any questions or comments, she is encouraged to call the undersigned attorney at (408) 530-9700.

Respectfully submitted,
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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING (37 CFR 1.6(e))

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